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# Carson Hails Passage of House Transportation Bill

*Transportation Bill will create jobs and strengthen  
infrastructure*

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**Washington, D.C.** - Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) praised the House's passage of the transportation bill today. The "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House today with a vote of 357 to 65. This bill would provide \$275 billion in funding to help build and maintain critical highway infrastructure and transit programs throughout the United States. Of this amount Oklahoma would receive \$2.8 billion in highway funding, \$166.6 million in transit funding and \$122 million in funding for high priority projects.

Calling it "an important bill that contains valuable funding to improve programs important to many Oklahomans," and "an important source of job creation," Congressman Carson said he would oppose any effort to cut the transportation bill, and will continue to fight for improvements in Oklahoma's portion of this critical bill.

"I have fought diligently to increase the amount of funding for Oklahoma's infrastructure," said Carson. "This bill, while not perfect, is a good bill that provides essential funds to improve Oklahoma's deteriorating roads. We cannot let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and these funds will allow Oklahoma to make crucial steps forward in repairing our crumbling roads and bridges."

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“I am proud have secured \$45 million in funding for high priority projects that will benefit Eastern Oklahoma, and I will continue to fight for the most possible funding for Oklahoma.”

“This bill is a significant improvement over the previous legislation and I strongly support it,” continued Carson. “We must recognize the importance of investing in our nation’s infrastructure both for our economic well-being and for public safety.”

Oklahoma currently has the worst bridges in the nation. The percentage of structurally deficient bridges in Oklahoma is higher than that of any other state.

“This bill includes critical money for bridge improvement that will hopefully move Oklahoma out of the top position in this hazardous category by providing much needed funds for the state to improve many of its structurally unsound and deficient bridges,” said Carson. “These improvements and repairs will not only make Oklahoma safer, they will also help promote commerce and create jobs in Oklahoma. Additionally, this legislation will put thousands of Americans to work *here* in the United States.”

47,500 U.S. jobs are created for every \$1 billion invested in federal highway and transit programs.

“I will continue to work with the significant majority of my colleagues who favored moving this legislation forward to improve the donor status of Oklahoma and to help the administration understand the importance of the transportation bill to Oklahoma and to all Americans,” asserted Carson.

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